

Message Text

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63/16

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 /037 W

----- 114625

O R 011058Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6513

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

JSC

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN GERM

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 1283

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - MRN CORRECTION - 1283 VICE 1282X

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MT

SUBJECT: ELLSWORTH VISIT TO MALTA

REF: (A) STATE 257562; (B) VALLETTA 1282 AND 1280

1. DE MARCO, ONE OF MINTOFF'S AIDES, TELEPHONED ME TO SAY THAT FOLLOWING MINTOFF'S TALKS WITH VISITING ITALIANS LAST NIGHT PM ASKED THAT I PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO MR. ELLSWORTH:

2. QUOTE I UNDERSTAND FROM RAIMONDO MANZINI THAT ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE THROUGH AMBASSADOR VOLPE IN ROME FOR YOUR TRANSPORT TO AND FROM MALTA BY NON-AMERICAN MILITARY PLANE. PLEASE CONFIRM. OTHERWISE, DATES ARE CONVENIENT FOR US, AND WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR ARRIVAL. UNQUOTE

3. EMBASSY ROME MAY BE ABLE TO SHED ADDITIONAL LIGHT ON THE ABOVE. UNFORTUNATELY, ITALIAN AMBASSADOR DA RIN, WITH WHOM I HAVE JUST SPOKEN, WAS NOT INCLUDED IN MINTOFF-MANZINI TETE A TETE LAST NIGHT AND WILL
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NOT BE PRESENT AT TALKS TODAY. WE CAN THEREFORE ONLY

ASSUME THAT ITALIANS, TRYING TO BE HELPFUL, MAY HAVE AGREED TO MINTOFF'S REQUEST THAT THEY PUT AN ITALIAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT AT ELLSWORTH'S DISPOSAL.

3. COMMENT: MINTOFF IS AGAIN TRYING TO HAVE THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS, AND WHILE THE ITALIAN OFFER IS UNDOUBTEDLY WELL-INTENTIONED, OUR ACCEPTANCE OF IT WOULD SMACK TO ME OF ANOTHER CAVE-IN TO MINTOFF'S ARROGANCE AND TREMENDOUS EGO. THE OVERNIGHT VISIT OF ONE US AIRCRAFT HARDLY CONSTITUTES A SUPERPOWER PRESENCE TO WHICH MINTOFF OBJECTS. MINTOFF INVITED ELLSWORTH, NOT VICE VERSA, AND FOR MINTOFF TO INSIST THAT OUR ASD VISIT MALTA ALMOST SURREPTITIOUSLY ON A MILITARY AIRCRAFT OF ANOTHER COUNTRY, HOWEVER FRIENDLY, STRIKES ME AS AN INSULTING CONDITION WE SHOULD NOT STAND STILL FOR. SMITH

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